



METHYL THIOCYANATE

Other Names: Methyl rhodanate
Methyl sulfocyanate
Thiocyanomethane

WARNING! • **POISON! BREATHING THE VAPOR, SWALLOWING THE MATERIAL OR SKIN CONTACT WITH LIQUID CAN KILL YOU! CONVERTED TO CYANIDE IN THE BODY!**
• Firefighting gear (including SCBA) does not provide adequate protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel

Hazards:

- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Decomposition products upon heating include toxic nitrogen and sulfur oxides and hydrogen cyanide

Awareness and Operational Level Training Response:

- **Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim**
- Stay upwind and uphill
- Determine the extent of the problem
- Isolate a wide area around the release and deny entry
- For container exposed to fire, evacuate the area in all directions because of the risk of BLEVE
- Evacuate or shelter in place the immediate area and downwind for a large release
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If material or contaminated runoff enters waterway, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

Description:

- Colorless liquid
- Onion-like odor
- Sinks in water and is insoluble in water
- Nonflammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas

Operational Level Training Response:

RELEASE, NO FIRE:

- Stop the release if it can be done safely from a distance
- Prevent material or runoff from entering sewers and waterways if it can be done safely well ahead of the release
- Use large amounts of water to disperse vapors - contain runoff
- Consider the application of foam to large areas of spilled liquid to control vapors
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk
- If in a building, evacuate building and confine vapors by closing doors and shutting down HVAC systems

FIRE:

- Material does not burn, fight surrounding fire with an agent appropriate for the material burning
- Cool exposed containers with large quantities of water from unattended equipment or remove intact containers if it can be done safely
- If cooling streams are ineffective (venting sound increases in volume and pitch, tank discolors or shows any signs of deforming), withdraw immediately to a secure location

First Aid:

- **Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim**
- Provide Basic Life Support/CPR as needed
- Decontaminate the victim as follows:
 - ♦ Inhalation - remove the victim to fresh air and give oxygen if available
 - ♦ Skin - remove and isolate contaminated clothing (including shoes) and wash skin with soap and large volumes of water for 15 minutes
 - ♦ Eye - rinse eyes with large volumes of water or saline for 15 minutes
 - ♦ Swallowed - do not make the victim vomit
- Seek medical attention
- Toxic effects may be delayed
- Note to physician: can produce cyanide toxicity; if symptoms indicate, initial treatment includes the cyanide antidote kit

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